

VZCZCXR06178

PP RUEHAG RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHLH RUEHPW RUEHROV

DE RUEHAA #0811 1820844

ZNY CCCCC ZZH

P 300844Z JUN 08 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1068

INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY 0380

RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 3955

RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 1772

RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 0061

RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1639

RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY 2208

RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

RUEAAIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J5/RUE// PRIORITY

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1429

RUEHVN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 2638

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASHGABAT 000811

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN, DRL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/30/2018

TAGS: PGOV PREL PHUM TX

SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: CHARGE TO FM MEREDOV: RELEASE

DURDYMURADOV

REF: ASHGABAT 0807

Classified By: CDA RICHARD E. HOAGLAND: 1.4 (B), (D)

¶1. (C) When Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov called him in June 30 on other business, Charge took the opportunity to raise the issue of detained Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty contributor Sazak Durdymuradov, and passed to the minister a copy of the Department's June 27 press statement.

¶2. (C) Meredov read the statement several times and then said he was aware of the case (reftel). Charge pressed that the 60-year-old schoolteacher is a respected member of his community and that his physical abuse and detention in a psychiatric facility is a dark blot on the reputation of the new government of Turkmenistan. He urged Meredov to use his influence to release Durdymuradov and return him to his family. Meredov indicated he clearly understood the gravity of the case. He said, "Please continue to work with me at our level on this," but he made no commitment.

¶3. (C) COMMENT: Everyone in the Foreign Ministry we have raised the Durdymuradov case with -- Americas Director Serdar Bashimov, First Deputy Foreign Minister Wepa Hajiyev, and now Meredov -- clearly understands the gravity of this case and its ramifications. We are not certain Meredov can influence the right levels, but we are certain he is clear about what needs to be done. END COMMENT.

HOAGLAND